

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub 17 1. A method of incorporating a consecutive win side bet into a game of chance comprising the steps of:

a) at least one player wagering at least one chip or coin to participate in the game of chance;

b) at least one player who, having wagered a chip or coin to participate in the game of chance, wagering a second chip or coin for a consecutive wins side bet;

c) said player making the wager of step (b) further selecting a number of consecutive wins from within a permitted range of numbers;

d) presenting a display of a payoff amount according to the number of consecutive wins selected in step (c) and the amount of the wager made in step (b), and based on pre-programmed payoff odds which correspond to different values of the prospective consecutive wins; and

e) providing a winning indication when the player making the side bet wager wins a consecutive number of games played which is equal to the number of consecutive wins originally selected.

2. A method of playing a game of chance comprising the steps of:

a) at least one player wagering a chip or coin for a consecutive wins side bet;

b) said player making the wager of step (a) further selecting a number of consecutive wins from within a permitted range of numbers;

c) presenting a display of a payoff amount according to the number of consecutive wins selected in step (b) and the amount of the wager made in step (a); and

d) providing a winning indication when the player making the wager of step (a) wins a consecutive number of games played which is equal to the number of consecutive wins originally selected.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein step (c) further comprises determining the payoff based upon pre-programmed payoff odds which correspond to different values of consecutive wins.

9 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising terminating the payoff display and removing the wager made in step (a) in the event that the player making such wager loses a game prior to achieving the selected number of consecutive wins.

10 5. The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) further comprises:

e) covering the consecutive wins bet made during step (a) within a receptacle during a consecutive win play period.

11 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

f) uncovering the bet covered during step (e) when either a player has achieved a number of consecutive wins equal to the selected number or when a player loses a game prior to achieving the selected number of consecutive wins.

¹²/₇ The method of claim ¹¹/₆ further comprising flashing said display generated during step (c) when a player having made the bet of step (a) has won a number of consecutive games equal to the selected wins number.

¹³/₈ The method of claim ¹²/₇ wherein step of flashing the display further includes making an audible alarm contemporaneously with flashing of said display.

²⁸/₉ Betting apparatus, comprising:
a chip receptacle;
means for detecting a presence and a denomination of a chip placed in said chip receptacle;
display means and means for operating said display means to select a given number of consecutive wins from a permissible range of numbers;
controller means responsive to said means for operating and a denomination of a chip in said chip receptacle for generating a payoff amount;
display means for displaying a number of consecutive games won and a payoff amount; and
means responsive to initiation of a game of chance associated with the betting apparatus for preventing the number of consecutive wins, the amount of the bet and payoff from being changed until either a game is lost before the selected number of consecutive wins is attained or the number of games won equals the number of consecutive wins selected.

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~~10~~. The betting apparatus of claim ²⁸~~9~~ further comprising:

said controller means including means for advancing the number of games won and displaying said number responsive to operation of a dealer-operation button.

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~~11~~. The betting apparatus of claim ²⁹~~10~~ further comprising:

said controller means including means for indicating a consecutive games bet win when a number of games won in said display equals the number displayed in said selected consecutive wins display.

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~~12~~. The betting apparatus of claim ²⁸~~9~~ further comprising a Loss button and means which, when the Loss button is operated, removes data on display to indicate that a player has lost a game prior to achieving the consecutive number of wins presented in the consecutive wins selected display.

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~~13~~. The apparatus of claim ²⁸~~9~~ further comprising a Push button and means responsive to operation of the Push button for incrementing a number of wins displayed to indicate that values of hand held by a player and dealer are equal.

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~~14~~. The apparatus of claim ²⁸~~9~~ further comprising means for covering said chip receptacle responsive to initiation of said game of chance, and further comprising means to prevent said chip receptacle from being uncovered until a consecutive number of games won equals the number presented in the selected consecutive wins display.

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~~15.~~ The apparatus of claim ³²~~13~~ further comprising means for uncovering said chip receptacle when the Loss button is operated.

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~~16.~~ The apparatus of claim ³⁵~~14~~ for removing all of the displays when the Loss button is operated.

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~~17.~~ The apparatus of claim ³²~~13~~ wherein said cover means includes a transparent member, which, while covering the chip receptacle, permits visual observation of the contents thereof.

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~~18.~~ The apparatus of claim ²⁸~~9~~ further comprising a dealer-operated button adjacent to a dealer presiding over the game of chance and operable to provide an indication of initiation of said game of chance, said means for preventing being operated responsive to said dealer-operated button.

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~~19.~~ The apparatus of claim ¹²~~7~~ wherein means is provided for identifying a game bet and an amount received by a chip receptacle is a side bet made in addition to a game bet.

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~~20.~~ A betting unit comprising:
a chip receptacle;
a transparent cover moveable between a first position above said chip receptacle and second position displaced from said chip receptacle;
a housing for said chip receptacle having an opening above said chip receptacle and a surrounding marginal lip extending inwardly from said opening;

means for movably mounting said chip receptacle between an upper and a lower position respectively closer to and further away from said housing opening;

drive means;

first means responsive to operation of said drive means for moving said cover between said first and second positions;

second means responsive to operation of said drive means for moving said elevator means between said upper and said lower positions, said first and second means being so interrelated as to lower said chip receptacle when said cover is being moved to said first position, raise said elevator when said cover reaches said first position, to press a marginal notch in said cover into engagement with the marginal lip of the housing and lower the elevator to provide clearance for said cover when being moved from said first position to said second position.

43 21. The apparatus of claim 42 further comprising a carrier for supporting said cover and being moveable between said first and second positions;

said carrier having a supporting flange engaging and supporting a marginal peripheral portion of said cover when said elevator means is lowered and for enabling the cover to be lifted from said carrier supporting flange toward said housing opening when said elevator means raises said chip receptacle.

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~~22~~. A chip receptacle for use in a betting apparatus for providing a bet in a game of chance, comprising:

a housing having an opening;

a chip receptacle mounted in said housing and beneath said opening;

elevator means for raising and lowering said chip receptacle;

a carrier frame moveable between a first position between said chip receptacle and said opening and a second position displaced therefrom, the path of movement of said carrier being substantially perpendicular to the path of movement of said elevator means;

a transparent cover supported by and moveable with said carrier;

a drive source;

first means responsive to said drive source for moving said carrier between said first and second positions; and

second means moveable by said drive source for raising and lowering said elevator means, whereby said elevator means is lowered when said carrier moves from said second position towards said first position and is thereafter raised to lift said cover from said carrier and urge a central portion of said carrier into said opening when said carrier has reached said second position.

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~~23~~. The chip receptacle of claim ~~22~~ wherein said drive source is a motor provided with an output shaft;

a driven shaft;

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first coupling means between said motor output shaft and said driven shaft for rotating said driven shaft;

said first coupling means comprising a drive arm mounted to rotate with said driven shaft and having one end secured to said driven shaft;

a drive pin at an opposite end of said drive arm; and

groove means in said carrier slidably receiving said drive arm whereby rotational movement of said drive arm is converted into transnational movement of said carrier between said first and second positions.

⁴⁶ 24. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁵ 23 wherein said means for coupling drive from said motor output shaft to said driven shaft comprises a first worm gear mounted on said motor output shaft and a second worm gear mounted on said driven shaft and meshing with said first worm gear.

⁴⁷ 25. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁴ 22 wherein said drive means is a motor having an output shaft; a driven shaft and means for coupling drive from said motor output shaft to said driven shaft;

said second coupling means comprising a cam mounted on said driven shaft;

a cam follower engaging said cam means and means coupled between said cam follower and said elevator means for selectively lifting and lowering said elevator means responsive to rotation of said cam means.

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~~26~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁷~~25~~ wherein said elevator means comprises a shaft and means for slidably supporting said shaft to permit such shaft to experience movement along its longitudinal axis; said chip receptacle being supported by an upper end of said shaft, said coupling means be coupled between said shaft and said cam follower.

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~~27~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁴~~22~~ wherein said second coupling means is comprised of first and second linkage arms;

a first end of said first linkage arm being swingably coupled to a first end of said second linkage arm;

a second end of said first linkage arm being swingably coupled to said support slidably supporting said shaft;

a second end of said second linkage arm being pivotally coupled to said shaft;

said first end of said first linkage arm and said first end of said second linkage arm pivotally coupled thereto forming a knee slidably engaging said cam follower whereby movement of said knee by said cam follower selectively raises and lowers said shaft supporting said chip receptacle.

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~~28~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁹~~27~~ wherein said chip receptacle comprises a platform;

a member having a plurality of openings each adapted to receive a chip;

said platform having disc-shaped projections moveable into said chip openings in said member;

spring means arranged between said chip holder and said chip elevator;

said elevator means including means for moving said disc-shaped projections into said chip receiving openings in said chip holder when said cover is removed to facilitate removal of chips arranged therein and for moving said chip elevator downwardly by an amount sufficient to place chips in said chip holders so that an upper surface of said chips is at least substantially flush with an upper surface of said chip holder, and said chip holder being pressed against said cover in the closed position.

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~~29~~. The chip receptacle of claim ⁵⁰~~28~~ further comprising pairs of openings for each chip which may be received by the chip receptacle;

each pair of openings being positioned beneath a chip holding opening in said chip holder;

a first detection sensor for detecting a presence of a chip arranged beneath one of said openings and a second denomination sensor for detecting a denomination of a chip arranged beneath a second one of said openings.

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~~30~~. The apparatus of claim ⁵¹~~29~~ wherein said first sensor comprises a light emitting device and a light sensitive device for detecting the presence of light emitted from said light emitting device and reflected by a bottom surface of a chip.

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~~31~~. The apparatus of claim ⁵¹~~29~~ wherein said denomination detecting sensor comprises a plurality of light emitting elements for respectively emitting lights of different wavelengths and a light sensing element;

means for selectively energizing said light emitting elements at different time intervals; and

means responsive to light reflected from a bottom surface of a chip and detected by said light sensing element and to a time at which said reflected light is sensed for identifying a wavelength of sensed light and means responsive to a light wavelength detected for determining a denomination of a chip.

²~~32~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

f) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

g) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);

h) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

i) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

j) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

k) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

l) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (k) and removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

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~~33~~. The method of claim ²~~2~~ wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

d) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

e) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (d);

f) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

g) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

h) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

i) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

j) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (i) and removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

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~~34~~. The method of claim ²~~2~~ wherein the game of chance is blackjack and further including the steps of:

e) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

f) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

g) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

h) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

i) providing a Push button at each player's position; and

j) operating a Push button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has tied a game; and

k) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (j) and removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

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~~35~~. The method of claim ¹⁵~~33~~ further comprising the steps of:

k) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous hand responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent hand; and

performing step (d) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (l).

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~~36~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the game of chance is poker and further including the steps of:

f) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed steps (a) and (b);

g) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);

h) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

i) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

j) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

k) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and

l) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (k) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

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~~37~~. The method of claim ⁷~~2~~ wherein the game of chance is poker and further including the steps of:

e) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed steps (a) and (b);

f) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

g) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

h) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

i) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

j) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

k) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (j) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

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~~38~~. The method of claim ¹⁷~~36~~ further comprising the steps of:

m) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous hand responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent hand; and

performing step (e) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (m).

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~~39~~. The method of claim ²⁰~~37~~ further comprising the steps of:

l) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous hand responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent hand; and

performing step (d) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (l).

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40. The method of claim 2 wherein the game of chance is craps and further including the steps of:

e) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

f) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

g) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

h) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

i) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (h) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

41. The method of claim 1 wherein the game of chance is craps and further including the steps of:

f) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

g) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

h) providing a Loss button at each player's position;

i) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

j) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (i) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

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42. The method of claim 1 wherein the game of chance is baccarat and further including the steps of:

f) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

g) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);

h) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

i) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

j) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

k) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and has lost a game; and

l) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (k) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

23 43. The method of claim 7 wherein the game of chance is baccarat and further including the steps of:

e) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

f) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

g) dealing each player who has performed at least step (a) and the dealer with a given number of cards;

h) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players; and

i) providing a Loss button at each player's position; and

j) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

k) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (j) and removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

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~~44~~. The method of claim ⁴~~42~~ further comprising the steps of:

m) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous hand responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent hand; and

performing step (e) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (m).

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~~45~~. The method of claim ²³~~43~~ further comprising the steps of:

l) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous hand responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent hand; and

performing step (d) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (l).

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~~46~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the game of chance is roulette and further including the steps of:

f) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

g) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (b) responsive to the indication provided at step (f);

h) operating a roulette wheel;

i) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

j) providing a Loss button at each player's position;

k) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (b) and (b) and has lost a game; and

l) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (k) and removing the wager made by said player during step (b).

25 ~~41~~. The method of claim ⁷/₂ wherein the game of chance is roulette and further including the steps of:

e) providing an indication of initiation of a game when at least one player has performed step (a);

f) covering the chip or coin wagered during step (a) responsive to the indication provided at step (e);

g) operating a roulette wheel;

h) paying off winning players and removing all wagers made at step (a) for all losing players;

i) providing a Loss button at each player's position;

j) operating a Loss button at a player's position of a player who has performed step (a) and has lost a game; and

k) removing the display of the player whose Loss button was operated at step (j) and removing the wager made by said player during step (a).

48. The method of claim 46 further comprising providing a Push button at each player's position;

operating a Push button of a player having a hand that is equal in value to a dealer's hand; and

removing a display of the player whose Push button has been operated to clear that player's display.

49. The method of claim 46 further comprising providing a Push button at each player's position;

operating a Push button of a player having a hand that is equal in value to a dealer's hand; and

removing a display of the player whose Push button has been operated to clear that player's display.

Sub 47 50. The method of claim 47 further comprising the steps of:

m) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous game responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent game; and

performing step (e) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (m).

51. The method of claim 48 further comprising the steps of:

1) accumulating a count of consecutive wins each time a player has won a previous game responsive to the dealer providing an indication of initiation of a subsequent game; and

performing step (d) by utilizing the accumulated count obtained in step (1).

⁵⁴ 52. In combination, a gaming machine and a betting unit, comprising:

said machine having an operating member and means for receiving a wager and means responsive to said means for receiving said wager and operation of said operating member for initiating a game;

said betting unit including means for receiving a wager;

means for manually inputting a selected number of consecutive wins;

means for displaying a selected number of consecutive wins responsive to said manual means;

means for accumulating a number of consecutive wins each time a player wins a game; and

means for providing a payoff signal when the number of consecutive games won equals the selected number of consecutive wins.

⁵⁵ ~~53~~ 53. The combination of claim ⁵⁴ ~~52~~ further comprising means for displaying a payoff amount based on an amount wagered and a member of consecutive wins selected.

⁵⁶ ~~54~~ 54. The combination of claim ⁵⁴ ~~52~~ wherein said side bet unit includes a display means for

displaying a selected number of consecutive wins, a number of games won and a payoff amount; and

means responsive to a selected number of consecutive wins and an amount bet by the player for displaying a payoff amount on said display means.

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~~55~~. The combination of claim ~~54~~⁵⁶ further comprising means for presenting a flashing display when a number of games won is equal to a selected number of consecutive wins.

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~~56~~. The combination of claim ~~52~~⁵⁴ wherein said gaming machine comprises means for generating a signal indicating a player has lost a game; and means for deleting at least one of the payoff display, games won display and selected number of consecutive wins display responsive to receipt of a signal indicating a game lost by a player when the number of games won is less than the selected number of consecutive wins.

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~~57~~. The combination of claim ~~52~~⁵⁴ further comprising means for storing data inputted into said bet unit during use thereof.

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~~58~~. The combination of claim ~~57~~⁵⁹ further comprising means for displaying the stored data responsive to operation of a display data switch.

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~~59~~. The combination of claim ~~57~~⁵⁹ wherein the data stored includes the total number of games, total amount of bet, and total amount paid out; for each game, the consecutive wins selected, the amount of a bet of each game, the payoff of each win and

number of games played before loss; and an identification number of the unit.

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~~60~~. The combination of claim ⁵⁹~~57~~ further comprising means for transferring the stored data to a portable unit responsive to connection of said portable unit thereto.

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~~61~~. The combination of claim ²⁸~~8~~ further comprising means for storing data inputted into said bet unit during use thereof.

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~~62~~. The combination of claim ³⁸~~61~~ further comprising means for displaying the stored data responsive to operation of a display data switch.

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~~63~~. The combination of claim ³⁸~~61~~ wherein the data stored includes the total number of games, total amount of bet, and total amount paid out; for each game, the consecutive wins selected, the amount of a bet of each game, the payoff of each win and number of games played before loss; and an identification number of the unit.

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~~64~~. The combination of claim ³⁸~~61~~ further comprising means for transferring the stored data to a portable unit responsive to connection of said portable unit thereto.